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## In this Issue:

- Flood Response
- High School STEM Leaders Graduate, Hear First-Hand from STEM Professionals
- White House Delays Susan Sanctions Relief Following Bipartisan Effort
- Legislative Update
- Randy in the News

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## Flood Response



The severe weather that led to flooding has taken a toll on our communities in northern Illinois, prompting increased action by state officials and emergency declarations by the Lake County and Kane County Boards. The Des Plaines and Fox Rivers are predicted to crest above major flood level this weekend and into next week downriver.

My office remains in constant contact with state and local government to make sure everyone is safe and to mitigate flood damage. This includes coordinating with Governor Rauner's office, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), and officials and mayors in Lake, McHenry and Kane counties including Lake County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and McHenry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to make sure families are safe and communities have the resources they need. I also have urged local insurance providers to prepare for swift claims processing so affected families can quickly recover.

Illinois has among the best emergency mutual aid systems of any state. When emergencies arise, local and county governments and citizens come together to help one another. DuPage County sent in sandbags, Cook County lent its massive sandbag-filling machine and many other communities are contributing, helping us fill any needs that arise. I urge our communities to continue to band together and keep an eye out for neighbors who may need assistance. Don't hesitate to reach out to my office and county and city officials if there is anything else we can do to help.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

McHenry County Emergency Management Agency: 815-338-6400

Lake County Emergency Management Agency: 847-377-7100

Kane County Office of Emergency Management: 630-232-5985

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## **High School STEM Leaders Graduate, Hear First-Hand from STEM Professionals**

The energy, excitement and leadership abilities of our high school STEM Scholars were on full display at our dual STEM Scholars graduation ceremony and Women in STEM panel discussion this week at FONA International in Geneva. Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti's keynote, speeches from two of our STEM Scholars and inspiring discussion from women in STEM careers capped off a fun and celebratory evening.

The event celebrated my [inaugural class](#) of STEM Scholars, a 14th Congressional District youth leadership program encouraging high school students to become ambassadors in their communities for



the possibilities provided by science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



(Rep. Hultgren with 2017 STEM Scholars graduation class)



(Lt. Gov. Sanguinetti delivers keynote address)

Following our many meetings and visits to local businesses, educational institutions, national labs and more, it is clear these students are destined for great things in STEM, and I look ahead to

see where their education and careers take them. And hearing first-hand from STEM professionals who are innovating and leading in their fields helps encourage people pursue their dreams—boys, girls and Members of Congress alike!

Now it's time for the next class of STEM Scholars to join their ranks—[so apply now!](#)

The all-female panel discussed how they got inspired to engage in STEM careers, what a typical work day looks like, how these jobs will change over the next five years, how important mentorships are for growth and more. The answers included personal stories of obstacles overcome and opportunities taken, as well as how men and women can both support women in an ever-changing field. Click [here for a full summary of the event.](#)



(Rep. Hultgren hosts Women in STEM panel)





(STEM Scholars meeting women STEM professionals)

Click [here to read local news coverage](#).

Click here to read the *Daily Herald* editorial: [STEM successes offer inspiration for young women](#).

## White House Delays Sudan Sanctions Relief Following Bipartisan Effort

In June, fellow Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-Chair Jim McGovern (D-MA) and I sent a bipartisan letter calling on President Trump to delay lifting sanctions on Sudan. In January 2017, President Obama issued Executive Order 13761, which provides temporary relief from many U.S. sanctions against Sudan that have been in effect for 20 years. At our April hearing on Sudan and sanctions, we heard first-hand from experts who were troubled by the negative consequences that could follow by prematurely lifting sanctions on this repressive regime.

Our letter called for a delay in sanctions relief for one year or until the Trump Administration has fully staffed the State Department and National Security Council and named a Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan who can conduct a thorough and objective

review. This bi-partisan letter reaffirms Congressional commitment to ensure Sudan improves its human rights record before the United States lifts sanctions. Click [here to read the letter](#).

We are pleased the White House [has delayed its decision](#) on whether or not to lift sanctions by three months while it gathers more information. Both Democrats and Republicans are urging the President to take a hard look at Sudan and its lack of progress in improving its human rights record.

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## Legislative Update



- After a half-decade of cuts, we're tackling the readiness crisis facing our troops in this year's [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) **which passed the House this week and I supported**. The men and women who keep us safe are our country's most valuable asset, and we have a responsibility to provide them the resources, care and pay raise they need, earned and deserve. Among many other provisions, this bill fully funds the 2.4 percent pay raise our troops are entitled to under law. It also extends special pay and bonuses for service members.
- The Veterans Choice Program allows eligible veterans to use a private medical provider if a VA facility is far away. Yet delayed reimbursement practices from the VA have caused veterans to become subject to debt collection proceedings and to have

negative information included in their credit reports, an action that can have serious long-term financial consequences. Along with 39 of my colleagues I **led a letter expressing our concerns that veterans may have adverse credit actions taken against them due to their participation in the Veterans Choice Program**. Click [here to read the letter](#). Click [here to read the legislation I introduced to protect the credit ratings of veterans in these circumstances](#).

- Illinois is home to dozens of insurance companies, employing thousands of individuals in our district and across the state. Along with Ranking Member Maxine Waters (D-CA) of the Financial Services Committee and 21 of our colleagues, I introduced **H.R. 3110, the Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act**. This bipartisan legislation ensures insurance expertise maintains a strong voice with financial regulators in Washington so those regulators can make informed and prudent policy determinations. Click [here to learn more](#).

If you haven't already, be sure to [like my Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or [check out my YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress  
14th District, Illinois*

## Randy in the News

- [14th District Congressman Randy Hultgren Talks Politics, Healthcare and More on WROK](#) (WROK Newstalk 1440)
- [Editorial: STEM successes offer inspiration for young women](#) (Daily Herald)
- [Fermilab in Batavia receives accolades; Rep. Hultgren issues video](#) (Kane County Chronicle)

- [Flood plain homeowners need better protection, Hultgren argues](#) (Will County Gazette)
- [Lawmakers: Veterans' credit damaged by slow VA reimbursements](#) (Stars and Stripes)
- [Opinion: Federal Tax Reform for Businesses Large and Small Way Overdue](#) (Times of San Diego)
- [Robots are Not Going to Steal Our Jobs, Experts Say](#) (MeriTalk)
- [STEM scholars get lesson on gender equality in Geneva](#) (Daily Herald)
- [Students from St. Charles, Batavia among cadets picked for military academies](#) (Kane County Chronicle)
- [Sycamore grad departs for Merchant Marines](#) (DeKalb Daily Chronicle)
- [US Rights Commission holds hearing on religious freedom in Tibet](#) (The Tibet Post)
- [Yellen: Supportive of cybersecurity efforts](#) (CNBC)

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